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	UNITED STATES BA	ANKRUPTCY COURT
18		
19		
20	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION	
21	In re	Case No. 23-30564
22	THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP	Chapter 11
23	OF SAN FRANCISCO,	DEBTOR'S FIFTH MOTION FOR
24	Debtor and Debtor in Possession.	EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTIONS [28 U.S.C.
	Deotor in Possession.	§ 1452 AND BANKRUPTCY RULE 9027]
25		Date: November 20, 2025
26		Time: 1:30 p.m.
27		Location: Via ZoomGov Judge: Hon. Dennis Montali
28		

CASE No. 23-30564

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The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, the debtor and debtor in possession

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1. This Court has jurisdiction to consider the Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). The statutory basis for the relief requested herein are 28 U.S.C. § 1452 and Bankruptcy Rules 9006(b) and 9027.

19 20 2. Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

BACKGROUND

II.

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3. On August 21, 2023 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtor commenced with the Court a voluntary case under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. [ECF No. 1]. The Debtor continues to operate its businesses and manage its properties as debtor in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

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4. On September 1, 2023, the Office of the United States Trustee appointed a statutory committee of unsecured creditors (the "Committee") in this Bankruptcy Case pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code. [ECF No. 58]. On October 24, 2023, the Court approved the Committee's employment of Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP as its counsel. [ECF No. 237].

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- 5. The RCASF filed this Bankruptcy Case to reorganize its financial affairs pursuant to a plan of reorganization that will, among other things, fairly, justly, and equitably compensate survivors of sexual abuse by clergy or others associated with the RCASF and bring healing to survivors, parishioners and others affected by past acts of sexual abuse. The RCASF requires the Bankruptcy Court's protection and the protection of the bankruptcy laws to make fair and equitable payment on all of the claims against it, including the claims by survivors of abuse, trade creditors, and others, while continuing its ministries and support it offers to Catholic parishes and communities. See Passarello Background Decl. ¶ 60-61.
- 6. On October 27, 2023, this Court entered its Order Granting Debtor's Motion for Extension of Deadline for Removal of Civil Actions [28 U.S.C. § 1452 and Bankruptcy Rule 9027] at ECF No. 253. This order extended the deadline to remove claims or causes of action in a civil proceeding for one hundred eighty-five (185) days from November 20, 2023, through and including May 23, 2024.
- 7. On May 10, 2024, this Court entered its Order Granting Debtor's Second Motion for Extension of Deadline for Removal of Civil Actions [28 U.S.C. § 1452 and Bankruptcy Rule 9027] at ECF No. 634. This order extended the deadline to remove claims or causes of action in a civil proceeding for one hundred and eighty (180) days from May 23, 2024, through and including November 19, 2024.
- 8. On October 31, 2024, the Court entered its Order Granting Debtor's Third Motion for Extension of Deadline for Removal of Civil Actions [28 U.S.C. § 1452 and Bankruptcy Rule 9027] at ECF No. 907. This order extended the deadline to remove claims or causes of action in a civil proceeding for one hundred and eighty-five (185) days from November 19, 2024, through and including May 23, 2025.
- 9. On May 9, 2025, the Court entered its Order Granting Debtor's Fourth Motion for Extension of Deadline for Removal of Civil Actions [28 U.S.C. § 1452 and Bankruptcy Rule 9027] at ECF No. 1186. This order extended the deadline to remove claims or causes of action in a civil proceeding for one hundred and eighty-five (185) days from May 23, 2025, through and including November 24, 2025.

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On November 21, 2023, this Court entered its Order (1) Fixing Time for Filing Proof of Claim; (2) Approving Proof of Claim Forms; (3) Providing Confidential Protocols; and (4) Approving Form and Manner of Notice [ECF No. 337] ("Bar Date Order"), setting February 20, 2024 (the "Bar Date"), as the deadline for creditors, including potential Survivor Claimants (as defined in the Bar Date Order) to file claims against the Debtor. As approved by the Bar Date Order, the Debtor has undertaken an extensive effort to provide notice and to coordinate local, regional, and national publication of the Bar Date to creditors, survivors, and other parties in interest. The Debtor's statement and summary of steps taken to comply with the Bar Date Order was filed on April 15, 2024. [ECF No. 587].

11. On July 15, 2024, this Court entered its Order Referring Case to Mediation and Appointing Mediator ("Mediation Order"). [ECF No. 747]. The Mediation Order appointed the Hon. Daniel J. Buckley (Ret.), Timothy V.P. Gallagher, and the Hon. Christopher S. Sontchi (Ret.) as mediators (collectively, the "Mediators"). The Debtor and the Committee agreed to a "standstill agreement" regarding the filing of a chapter 11 plan while mediation continues [See ECF Nos. 999 and 1306].

12. Without any intention of waiving the mediation privilege, the Debtor reports that with the assistance of the Mediators, it believes there has been recent incremental progress in the mediation negotiations between the Debtor and the Committee. Much work still needs be done to arrive at a reasonable settlement under the circumstances. However, the Debtor's professionals, most of which have significant experience in clergy abuse matters, believe the mediation is progressing as expected. The Debtor will not allow this case to become mired in the same multiyear litigation quagmire that has characterized other diocesan cases where committees have aggressively pursued costly litigation with little to no benefit to the mediation process.¹ Settlement data points and paths for these cases are readily known and achievable here. Substantial discovery of the Debtor's and related entities' financial circumstances was completed months ago. The

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FOR REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTIONS

The Debtor notes that over \$15.5 million has been spent on professional fees through the end of August 2025.

year remains the focus. Reaching that goal will be challenging, but as noted strategies to achieve that goal have been developed and are being implemented. Preserving the ability to remove actions is one of those strategies.

Debtor's goal of reaching a settlement at least on the non-insurance aspects prior to the end of this

13. Additionally, the parties, with the assistance of the Mediators, have consensually resolved the *Motion for Order Extending Stay to All State Court Cases in Which Debtor and/or Non-Debtor Affiliates are Named as Defendants Under Bankruptcy Code Sections 105(a) and 362* [Debtor Adv. P. ECF No. 8] (the "Stay Motion"). The *Debtor's Motion to Approve Compromise and Stipulation Modifying the Automatic Stay* [ECF No. 1285] (the "Compromise Motion") was granted on September 17, 2025 (the "Compromise Order"). [ECF No. 1346]. Several insurers have appealed the Compromise Order to the district court.

III. <u>RELIEF REQUESTED</u>

14. By this Motion, the Debtor requests entry of an order extending the current Removal Deadline of November 24, 2025, by 185 days through and including May 28, 2026, for all matters encompassed by Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) and (3), without prejudice to further extensions.

IV. BASIS FOR RELIEF REQUESTED

- 15. As noted in the Gaspari Decl. and Passarello Background Decl., the Debtor is informed and believes that approximately 537 complaints have been filed in the Joint Coordinated Proceeding No. 5108 pending in Alameda Superior Court, although the RCASF may not have been served with all of them yet. The Debtor has filed its Schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs identifying each of the actions of which the Debtor was aware as of the initial schedules filing date of September 21, 2023. [See ECF Nos. 152 and 153]. The Debtor may become aware of other complaints hereafter (such actions, together with any other civil action to which the Debtor is, or may become, a party, collectively, the "Civil Actions").
- 16. Approximately 541 Survivor Claimants (as defined in the Bar Date Order) have filed confidential Survivor Claims against the Debtor.
- 17. The Debtor's counsel informed Committee counsel that the Debtor would be filing this Motion. The Debtor will provide notice of this Motion to the attorneys for each of the litigation

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service reflecting such service.

counterparties to the Civil Actions (the "Litigation Counterparties") and will file an affidavit of

- 18. The RCASF intends to negotiate a plan of reorganization as early as possible which will: (a) allocate the RCASF's remaining assets fairly among the legitimate competing interests for such property; (b) provide a process to fully, fairly and expeditiously liquidate claims of abuse survivors; and (c) permit the RCASF to carry on the RCASF's essential ministries and services so the RCASF can continue to meet the needs of the Non-Debtor Catholic Entities, parishioners, and others who rely on the RCASF's ministry, education, and charitable outreach. Passarello Background Decl. ¶ 63.
- 19. There have been about 30 or so Catholic Diocese or Archdiocese chapter 11 cases over the years. Many of those cases follow a similar path involving global mediation with all parties in interest including the Debtor, the Committee, insurance companies and relevant related and co-defendant parties.
- 20. The Debtor has been and continues to work towards the steps that have been successful in other Catholic Diocese cases for a productive mediation. This includes exchanging information among the Debtor, Committee, insurers, and related parties; the Debtor and the Committee working together on the abuse claims noticing and filing procedures (approved by court order at ECF No. 337); determining a course to stay the litigation against co-defendants, additional insured parties, and potential contributors to a reorganization plan settlement; selection and appointment of an unknown claims representative; selection of the mediators (approved by court order at ECF No. 747); and mediation. The results of the mediation typically form the basis for the chapter 11 plan of reorganization.
- 21. Since the Petition Date, the Debtor has worked diligently on these matters, including the filing and adjudication to interim orders of six "first day" motions, employment of the professionals needed to administer this Chapter 11 case, entry of the Bar Date Order, and entry of the Mediation Order.
- 22. The Debtor's efforts have also included extensive discovery pursuant to the Court's order on the Committee's Rule 2004 Application [See ECF No. 383], and a detailed Stipulated

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27 28 Protective Order [ECF No. 374], which governs the production of records to the Committee in response to the Committee's discovery requests under the Rule 2004 Application (the "Committee" <u>Discovery Requests</u>") [See ECF No. 374] and the Court's order granting the Committee's additional ex parte application under Bankruptcy Rule 2004 [ECF No. 633].

- 23. The Debtor also has produced documents to the insurers pursuant to their ex parte application under Bankruptcy Rule 2004 [ECF No. 571] and the Court's Order Approving Stipulation Clarifying Language in Stipulated Protective Order Dated December 15, 2023. [ECF No. 801]. The Debtor has provided access to discovery to insurers which have executed the confidentiality agreement pursuant the protective order.
 - 24. The Debtor believes that discovery is substantially complete.
- 25. In accordance with the Bar Date Order, the Debtor provided the Committee and certain Insurers (after review and execution by each of the Claims Confidentiality Agreement approved by the Bar Date Order) with access to confidential claims filed by Survivor Claimants.
- 26. The parties, with the assistance of the Mediators, have consensually resolved the Stay Motion. The Compromise Motion was granted on September 17, 2025. [ECF No. 1346]. Several insurers have appealed the Compromise Order to the district court. The stipulated resolution provides for an injunction to stay the Affiliate State Court Actions (as defined in the stipulation) but also releases five other state court actions from the automatic stay and allows individual demands to be made by the plaintiffs to the Debtor.
- 27. The Debtor and the Committee have agreed to a "standstill agreement" regarding the filing of a chapter 11 plan while mediation continues. [ECF Nos. 999 and 1306].
- 28. The Debtor, Committee and Insurers anticipate further meetings with the Mediators as the mediation process continues.
- 29. The foregoing along with the ongoing mediation efforts toward a chapter 11 plan warrant a further extension of the deadline for removal.

V. **LEGAL BASIS FOR RELIEF REQUESTED**

30. Section 1452 of the Judicial Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9027 governs the removal of pending civil actions related to chapter 11 cases. Bankruptcy Rule 9027 sets forth the time

FOR REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTIONS

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the removal period pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b) is "clear") overruled on other grounds by

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Things Remembered, Inc. v. Petrarca, 516 U.S. 124 (1995); see also Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co., Inc., 251 B.R. 322, 325 (S.D. W.Va. 2000) (Bankruptcy Rule 9006 provides authority to enlarge time periods for removing actions under Bankruptcy Rule 9027); Raff v. Gordon, 58 B.R. 988, 990 (E.D. Pa. 1986) (an expansion of time to file notices of removal is authorized under the Bankruptcy Rules); In re Jandous Elec. Constr. Corp., 106 B.R. 48, 49 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989) (period in which to file motion for removal may be expanded pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006); In re World Fin. Servs. Ctr., Inc., 81 B.R. 33, 39 (Bankr. S.D. Cal. 1987) (United States Supreme Court intended to give bankruptcy judges the power to enlarge the filing periods under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a) pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b)).

- 36. As noted above, the Debtor is party to numerous Civil Actions. Since the filing of this Chapter 11 Case, the Debtor has focused a substantial amount of its time on issues related to its operations, the preparation of its schedules and statement of financial affairs, on addressing all of the issues related to transitioning its affairs to acting as a debtor in possession, and other issues necessary to move toward productive mediation. Further, the Debtor has made significant progress to prepare for and participate in mediation. The Debtor has provided documents to the Committee and Insurers such that discovery is substantially complete, has been assessing the claims filed by Survivor Claimants, conferring with the Committee and the Insurers regarding the proposed mediation, has obtained the Mediation Order, and pursuant to such order, the mediation process has commenced and is ongoing. The Debtor, Committee and Insurers anticipate further meetings with the Mediators as the mediation process continues. Moreover, and without any intention of waiving the mediation privilege, the Debtor reports that with the assistance of the Mediators, it believes there has been recent incremental progress in the mediation negotiations between the Debtor and the Committee. Much work still needs be done to arrive at a reasonable settlement under the circumstances. However, the Debtor believes that progress is being made in the mediation.
- 37. Given the substantial progress that has been made and the circumstances of this case, the Debtor believes it is premature to decide whether it is appropriate to file notices of removal with respect to the Civil Actions and that the interests of all parties are served by extending the

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23-30564

deadline for removal. Further, removing the large number of pending Civil Actions prior to a determination of whether removal will benefit the parties is an enormous task that should only be taken after careful consideration and necessity.

- 38. There is cause to extend the time prescribed under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a), through and including May 28, 2026, to protect the Debtor's right to remove any Civil Actions it may deem appropriate. The extension sought will afford the Debtor a reasonable period to determine whether to remove any pending Civil Actions and will ensure that the Debtor does not forfeit valuable rights under 28 U.S.C. 1452 and Bankruptcy Rule 9027 prematurely. Further, the rights of the Debtor's adversaries will not be prejudiced by such an extension because any party to an action that is removed may seek to have it remanded to the state court from which it came pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452(b). Moreover, the extension will promote the efficient administration of the estate given the extraordinary circumstances of hundreds of pending lawsuits, and the effort to achieve a consensual plan.
- 39. The Debtor further requests that the order approving this Motion be without prejudice to (a) any position the Debtor may take on whether section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code stays any given Civil Action pending against the Debtor, and (b) the right of the Debtor to seek further extensions of the Removal Deadline.
- 40. For the reasons stated above, the Debtor submits that the relief requested herein is appropriate and in its best interests, as well as in the best interests of its estate and creditors. Other courts have routinely granted similar requests by debtors for extensions of the removal period. *See, e.g., In re The Roman Catholic Bishop of Santa Rosa*, Case No. 23-10113 (Bankr. N.D. CA May 22, 2025) [ECF No. 1287] (fifth extension of removal deadline by additional 182 days); *In re The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland*, Case No. 23-40523 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. August 27, 2025) [ECF No. 2256] (fifth extension of removal deadline by additional 182 days); *In re PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company*, Case No. 19-bk-30088-DM (Bankr. N.D. Cal May 29, 2019) [ECF No. 2278] (extending deadline by 182 days); *Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg*, Case No. 1:20-bk-000599 (Bankr. M.D. Penn.) January 31, 2023 [ECF No. 1508] (10th extension of removal deadline); *The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre*, Case No. 20-bk-00599

10 CASE NO. 23-30564 Entered: 10/23/25-09:49:41-or Raggolo Deadline

Case: 23-30564 Doc# 1420 Filed: 10/23/25

1	(Bankr. M.D. Pa. Sept. 18, 2020) [ECF No. 437]; In re On Marine Sers. Co. LLC, Case No. 20-		
2	20007 (Bankr. W.D. Pa. March 17, 2020) [ECF No. 107] (extending removal deadline by 120 days);		
3	In re Wordsworth Acad., et al., Case No. 17-14463 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. Oct. 18, 2017) [ECF No. 359]		
4	(extending removal deadline by 125 days); In re Chaparral Energy, Inc., Case No. 16-11144		
5	(Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 15, 2016) [ECF No. 406] (extending removal deadline by 120 days); In re		
6	Cal Dive Int'l., Case No. 15-10458 (Bankr. D. Del. June 18, 2015) [ECF No. 494] (same); In re		
7	QCE Fin. LLC, Case No. 14-10543 (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 24, 2015) [ECF No. 630] (same); In re		
8	Energy Future Holdings Corp., Case No. 14-10979 (Bankr. D. Del. July 16, 2014) [ECF No.		
9	1590] (extending removal deadline by 180 days); In re Caribbean Petroleum Corp., Case No. 10-		
10	12553 (Bankr. D. Del. June 2, 2014) [ECF No. 2086] (extending deadline by 120 days).		
11	WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth above, the Debtor respectfully requests that this		
12	Court enter an order, in substantially the form attached hereto as <i>Exhibit 1</i> , granting the relief		
13	requested herein and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.		
14	Dated: October 23, 2025	FELDERSTEIN FITZGERALD WILLOUGHBY	
15	Dev	PASCUZZI & RIOS LLP	
16	By:	/s/ Jason E. Rios Paul J. Pascuzzi	
17		Jason E. Rios Thomas R. Phinney Milesyle E. Kystowick	
18		Mikayla E. Kutsuris Attorneys for The Roman Catholic Archbishop of	
19		San Francisco	
20	Dated: October 23, 2025	SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON	
21	Dev	LLP	
22	By:	/s/ Ori Katz Ori Katz	
23		Alan H. Martin Attorneys for The Roman Catholic Archbishop of	
24		San Francisco	
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CASE No. 23-30564

11 Entered: 10/23/25-09:109:141-or Raggo 11- Deadline For Removal of Civil Actions Case: 23-30564 Doc# 1420 Filed: 10/23/25 of 13

1	Exhibit 1		
2	[Proposed Order Extending Time for Removal]		
3 4 5	NORTHERN DISTRI	ANKRUPTCY COURT ICT OF CALIFORNIA	
6		SCO DIVISION	
7	In re THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP	Case No. 23-30564 Chapter 11	
8	OF SAN FRANCISCO,	[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING	
9	Debtor and Debtor in Possession.	DEBTOR'S FIFTH MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR	
10		REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTIONS [28 U.S.C. § 1452 AND BANKRUPTCY RULE 9027]	
11			
12		Time: 1:30 p.m.	
13 14		Location: Via ZoomGov Judge: Hon. Dennis Montali	
15	Upon consideration of the motion (the "Motion") for entry of an order (this "Order")		
16	extending the Removal Deadline by one hundred eighty-five (185) days, without prejudice to the		
17	Debtor's right to seek further extensions of the same, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and		
18		tion over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157	

extending the Removal Deadline by one hundred eighty-five (185) days, without prejudice to the Debtor's right to seek further extensions of the same, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and the Court having found that the Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334; venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and the Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtor's estate, its creditors, and other parties in interest; and it appearing that notice of the Motion and the opportunity for a hearing on the Motion was appropriate under the particular circumstances; and good cause appearing therefor;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is hereby GRANTED as set forth herein.
- 2. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452 and Bankruptcy Rules 9027 and 9006, the deadline to remove claims or causes of action in a civil proceeding is extended one hundred eighty-five (185) days from November 24, 2025, through and including May 28, 2026.

12 CASE NO. 23-30564

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For Removal of Civil Actions

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3. The Debtor is authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.

- This Order is without prejudice to (a) any position the Debtor may take on whether 4. section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code stays any litigation pending against the Debtor, or (b) the Debtor's right to seek further extensions of the Removal Deadline.
- 5. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over any and all matters arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Order.

END OF [PROPOSED] ORDER

13 Entered: 10/23/25-09:49:41-or Raggol 3- Deadline

Doc# 1420 Case: 23-30564

FOR REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTIONS